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BARCLAYS LEAGUE, DIVISION THREE

BOLTON WANDERERS

Monday, 1st January, 1990.

Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

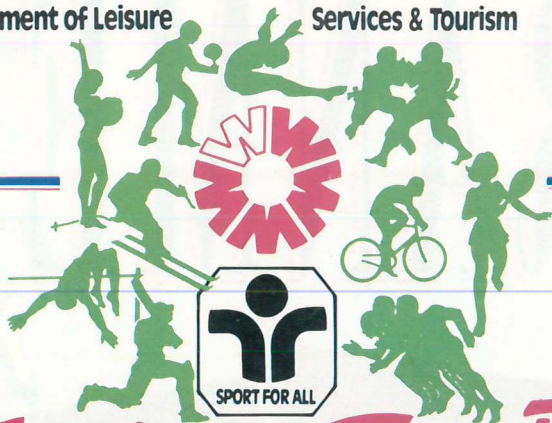


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Welcome to



Prenton Park

A Message from the Chairman

It is customary in this column to welcome the directors, manager and staff of our opposition for the day, coupled with the hope for an entertaining and enjoyable game.

Today's match however has special significance marking as it does the start of the 1990's and it is particularly appropriate that we entertain such a famous and illustrious club as Bolton Wanderers to start a new decade.

As an ardent fan of our national game I feel saddened at the legacy of the 80's, marred as it has been by hooliganism, tragedy and declining standards of behaviour both on and off the field.

Once again the main achievement of the decade came from Merseyside, with Liverpool providing one of the most noteworthy sporting achievements in the form of the "double".

The signs however are most encouraging as we enter a new era. Increased gates and a new sense of awareness of responsibility have marked significant improvements in the game's image. The football world can learn a lot from Tranmere Rovers, who facing extinction and oblivion just three years ago picked up the gauntlet and successfully achieved success, credibility and burning ambition through industry, good public relations and performances.

My sincere thanks, now customary, go to my Vice-Chairman, Frank Corfe, and everybody connected with running the club off the field, manager, John King, and his players for their sterling performance and achievements on it and, of course, you the supporters for providing the impetus and objectives. The campaign must continue. There are two more Divisions to scale and I believe the 1990's will close with Tranmere having played an important role in that decade as our Merseyside neighbours have in the last.

That then is my wish for the future, but more simply, my family and I wish you and yours a Very Happy New Year.

PETER JOHNSON



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1989 — *A Year in Focus*

1st January: Encouraged by a 1-0 success at Scunthorpe the previous day, Rovers entered 1989 in buoyant mood, handily placed in 5th position.

2nd January: Much fancied Burnley are despatched 2-1 at Prenton in front of a 7,974 crowd. Jim Steel's early header opens our account and Martindale's volley makes it 2-0 before Ian Britton provides a few anxious moments.

7th January: Reading of the Third Division are the visitors for the 3rd round of the F.A. Cup. Steve Vickers' header was good enough to clinch victory, but Reading were let off the hook by Karl Elsey's leveller 13 minutes from time.

11th January: Despite playing some brilliant football at Elm Park, Rovers dip out of the F.A. Cup 2-1 despite a late goal from Ian Muir — who also gets himself booked for hiding the Referee's yellow card behind him after it dropped out of his pocket when he took a tumble.

13th January: Layer Road, Colchester is the next port of call, the day after Jock Wallace's appointment as boss. In the glare of the T.V. cameras we win 3-2 after being two down thanks to goals from Mark McCarrick, a Jimmy Harvey free-kick special, and Steve Vickers' second of the week.

17th January: In front of only 2,915 fans, Wigan, then managed by Ray Mathias, sneak a late minute winner to put us out of the Sherpa Van Trophy. Now out of all Cups it's back to the promotion chase.

21st January: Scarborough become the first visitors to score at the Kop End, but substitute Eddie Bishop bundles in an equaliser at the same end to force a 1-1 draw, which is followed by the same scoreline at Cambridge on the 28th. John Morrissey cancels out Beck's fluke opener and celebrates by sliding 20 yards on his knees!



Ronnie Whelan and Jim Harvey at the 22nd April Memorial Service for Hillsborough victims.

4th February: After spurning the chance of three points at Cambridge, Rovers do it again at Peterborough. Chris Malkin's first goal seems to have clinched the points until Oakes equalises in the last minute.

10th February: Halifax are duly despatched at Prenton courtesy of a goal apiece from Steve Vickers and Eddie Bishop.

18th February: Three points from the trip to York were secured thanks to Ian Muir's goal but at a cost. John Morrissey and York winger Canham were sent off for 'fighting'. "More like handbags at dawn than a punch-up", observed John King.

Meanwhile, at Prenton Park 5,000 watch Liverpool's 3-2 F.A. Cup win at Hull on a giant T.V. screen. Coming home from York, Tranmere fans are attacked by Liverpool fans on a train from Leeds to Liverpool.

21st February: The reserves plus Steel, Martindale and Bishop lose 1-0 to Everton in the Liverpool Senior Cup.

25th February: The day after T.V. exposes Eddie Bishop Elvis's impersonations, Rovers share the spoils in a four 0-0 draw with Rotherham — the eventual champions.

1st March: Perhaps totally confused by reading Colin Murphy's legendary programme notes, Rovers lose 1-2 at Lincoln City. Steve Vickers' own goal ultimately proving decisive. Rovers slip to sixth place in the table.

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Round

3rd March: The visit of his old club Wrexham brings out the best in Jim Steel who scores a glorious 25 yard volley to win us the match, after Ian Muir intercepts a back pass to wipe out Graham Cooper's opener. Another 7,000 plus gate sees the match.

11th March: Having shown us the good side, Rovers show us the worst side of their nature with an appalling performance at Rochdale — even though they had the benefit of an early Chris Malkin goal. We lose 3-1.

13th March: Backsides suitably kicked, we turn it on to destroy Torquay 3-0 despite having Eddie Bishop sent off on 27 minutes. Chris Malkin's pace opens the door, an own goal makes it two and Malkin's header finished them off.

17th March: Another home match, another three points? Gritty Carlisle have other ideas though and hold us to a goalless draw. Ex-Tranmere defender Paul Fitzpatrick is Carlisle's star performer at sweeper.

20th March: The third home game in a week sees us back on the winning trail with Ian Muir scoring both goals in a 2-0 victory over a very impressive Exeter side. It took Muir's tally to 23 goals and hoisted Rovers up to fourth spot.

25th March: Complete frustration for John King and the 1,000 odd travelling Rovers' army, as Burnley rob us of three points at the death. Eddie Bishop's double was good enough to clinch the points but up popped Paul Comstive, three minutes over time on everybody's watch except Trelford Mills', to bash in a free kick. Paul, who is here today with Bolton, seems to have it in for us — just as Rush seems to relish torturing Everton.

27th March: Tony Thomas makes his full debut, but Steve Mungall scores the first crucial goal against fellow challengers Leyton Orient, after three brilliant Nixon saves had kept the "O's" at bay. Further efforts from Jim Steel and Jim Harvey (A twice taken free kick) push Rovers into overdrive.



Ian Muir scores against Scunthorpe.

1989 — A Year in Focus

1st April: Thomas the Tank strikes at Darlington with a spectacular opener, loobed from 25 yards and Vickers added a second to clinch the points though doomed Darlington did hit back late on.

5th April: Tony Thomas does it again with a cheeky back heel at Exeter which clinches three valuable points. That result more than most convinced us we were going up", said John King.

7th April: The kick-off is delayed for 15 minutes to accommodate the massive 10,465 crowd and they are rewarded with a superb performance which takes Rovers to the top of the Fourth Division. John Morrissey and Ian Muir scored textbook goals in the 2-1 win against Scunthorpe.

15th April: The day a 2-2 draw at Hartlepool paled into insignificance alongside the events at Hillsborough. Goals from Muir and Steel were little cause for celebration as the vast scale of the tragedy in Yorkshire becomes apparent to everyone. In the cold light of day the club learns that one of its promising youngsters, Kevin Tyrell, is among those to perish.

22nd April: As a mark of respect the home match with Grimsby is postponed and Prenton Park becomes a focus for Merseyside's grief as nearly 10,000 attend a Memorial Service. After the sadness of the day's events some light relief in the evening as Eddie "Elvis" Bishop and Eric "Medallion Man" Nixon are the stars of Steve Mungall's Testimonial Bash at the Primrose. The P.F.A. select, includes Jim Harvey, Ian Muir and Eric Nixon.

28th April: Back to action with a 1-0 home success over Stockport. Ian Muir bags a Platini style free kick to keep us in second position.

1st May: Disaster at Edgar Street! Despite the backing of over 1,000 enthusiastic fans, Rovers slumped to their first defeat in eleven games. Ian Muir, who converted one penalty in the 1-2 reverse missed a second award late on.

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In Opposition

Bolton folk are hard to please. Despite winning the Sherpa Van Trophy last season and enjoying a marathon Littlewoods Cup run against Second Division Swindon only recently, it needs only a couple of defeats before the wolves at Burnden Park are baying for Phil Neal's blood. But that in itself is nothing new. Bolton is a big club and the fans have been weaned on F.A. Cup semi-finals and finals, so when Neal's side dropped into the Fourth Division in 1987, the former Liverpool stalwart was subjected to a hate campaign by certain sections of the crowd.

Neal though, had the last laugh. Bolton stuck by their Manager and twelve months later he steered them back into the Third Division at the first attempt — albeit after a heart-stopping finish!

After a season of consolidation in Division Three, the Bolton boss then led his young troops to victory at Wembley last May when goals from Darby, Crombie and Morgan plus an own goal saw them defeat Fourth Division Torquay 4-1.

During the close season however, Neal proved that he was not about to rest on his laurels and bask in that Wembley triumph. Three of that team were sold to make way for some expensive newcomers. Out went John Thomas to W.B.A. for £30,000, while Jeff Chandler and Trevor Morgan also moved on to pave the way for the arrival of "Bros" look-a-like duo Tony Philliskirk and ex-Birkenhead Boys' striker David Reeves.

While Philliskirk cost £50,000 from rivals Preston, Bolton eventually had to cough up £80,000 for Reeves when his fee from Sheffield Wednesday was settled by tribunal.

Goalkeeper Kevin Rose was another new arrival from Hereford in exchange for a £25,000 fee, but after starting the season in goal he has subsequently given way to David Felgate. Neal's latest acquisition, Paul Comstive, arrived from Burnley in September for £38,000 and we certainly don't need any reminding about his capabilities!

Comstive though, is not sure of his place in today's line-up for both Nicky Brookman and fit again Robbie Savage will be challenging hard for a spot in midfield.

At the hub of the action we should find free-kick expert Steve Thompson, Gary Henshaw and youth product Julian Darby who also weighs in with some useful goals. Stuart Storer is yet another option. Bolton's defence is usually built around the twin towers of £300,000 rated Mark Winstanley, who was the subject of an enquiry by QPR before Trevor Francis's dismissal, and Dean Crombie. Barry Cowdrill has made the left back spot his own while Phil Brown has settled into Neal's old shirt after his £17,000 transfer from Halifax 18 months ago. In goal, Dave Felgate has reclaimed his place at the expense of Kevin Rose. Others who could come into contention are Mark Came, who went to the same Winsford School as Eddie Bishop and Mark McCarrick, Liverpool-born striker Mike Jeffrey and young full back Paul Hughes.

● Recent loan signing Martin Pike returns tonight with Bolton W. where he is also on a month's loan.



The Boss

PHIL NEAL

As a player, Phil Neal has won every honour the game has to offer with one notable exception — the F.A. Cup. During an 18 year career with over 700 matches and won 50 full caps for England where he made the right back slot his own for several years. During his Liverpool days he scored twice — three if you include shoot-outs in European Cup Finals and contributed many other vital goals for the Reds.

He joined Bolton as Player-Manager in December 1985, but was unable to prevent them being relegated at the end of 1986-87 season. Despite that, he has led Bolton to two Sherpa Van Trophy Finals — winning last season — and promotion at the end of 1987-88 season.

HONOURS BOARD

F.A. Cup Winners

1923, 1926, 1929, 1958

F.A. Cup Finalists

1894, 1904, 1953

Division Two Champions

1908-09, 1977-78

Division Three Champions

1972-73

Sherpa Van Trophy Winners

1989

Promoted to Division One

1899-90, 1904-05, 1908-09, 1910-11, 1934-35, 1977-78

Promoted to Division Two

1972-73, 1979-80

Promoted to Division Three

1987-88

League Cup semi-finalists

1976-77

Freight Rover Trophy Finalists

1985-86

Charity Shield Winners

1958

Central League Champions

1955

THEIR LAST FIVE YEARS

Season	Div.	Pos.	Top scorer	F.A.C.	L.C.
1988-89	Div. 3	10th	Morgan 11	2nd	1st
1987-88	Div. 4	3rd	Thomas 28	3rd	1st
1986-87	Div. 3	21st	Caldwell 15	3rd	1st
1985-86	Div. 3	18th	Caldwell 16	1st	2nd
1984-85	Div. 3	17th	Caldwell 22	1st	3rd

Bolton Wanderers



Back Row – Left to Right: Dean Crombie, Mark Came, Dave Felgate, Kevin Rose, Gareth Gray, Mark Winstanley, Barry Cowdrill.

Middle Row: Steve Carroll (Youth Coach), Gary Brown, Phil Brown, Julian Darby, David Reeves, Tony Philliskirk, Steve Thompson, Stuart Storer, Gary Henshaw, Mike Jeffrey, Ewan Simpson (Physio).

Front Row: Ian Stevens, Neil Fisher, Paul Hughes, Nicky Brookman, Mick Brown (First Team Coach), Phil Neal (Manager), Dave Roberts, Jeff Chandler, Robbie Savage, Nicky Spooner.

SQUAD AT A GLANCE

Name	Pos.	Birthplace	Ht.	Wt.	Previous Clubs	*App	Gls.
David Felgate	(G)	Blaenau Ffestiniog	6-2	13.6	Bolton (A), Rochdale (L), Lincoln, Grimsby.	124	—
Kevin Rose	(G)	Evesham	5-10	13.9	Ledbury, Lincoln, Hereford	6	—
Phil Brown	(D)	South Shields	5-9	11.0	Hartlepool, Halifax	64	5
Barry Cowdrill	(D)	Birmingham	5-10	11.0	West Brom	56	1
Dean Crombie	(D)	Lincoln	5-11	11.6	Lincoln, Grimsby	70+4	1
Mark Winstanley	(D)	St. Helens	6-1	12.4	Ex-Y.T.S.	85+1	2
Mark Came	(D)	Exeter	6-0	13.6	Winsford United.	146+7	7
Rob Savage	(D)	Liverpool	5-8	11.2	Liverpool, Wrexham (L), Stoke, Bournemouth, Bradford	42+1	6
Paul Comstive	(M)	Southport	6-1	12.7	Blackburn, Rochdale, Wigan, Wrexham, Burnley	12	—
Julian Darby	(M)	Bolton	6-0	11.3	Ex-Y.T.S.	122+5	12
Nick Brookman	(M)	Manchester	5-9	11.0	Ex-Y.T.S.	51+9	4
Steve Thompson	(M)	Oldham	5-11	12.0	Ex-App.	214+6	31
Gary Henshaw	(M)	Leeds	5-8	10.10	Grimsby	46+13	4
Stuart Storer	(M)	Harborough	5-9	12.2	Mansfield, B'ham, Everton	33+16	3
Tony Philliskirk	(F)	Sunderland	6-1	11.12	Sheff. Utd., Oldham, Preston.	17	7
David Reeves	(F)	Birkenhead	6-0	11.7	Hewall, Sheffield Wed., Scunthorpe and Burnley (on loan).	14	5

* Bolton League Career only, up to 12th December, 1989

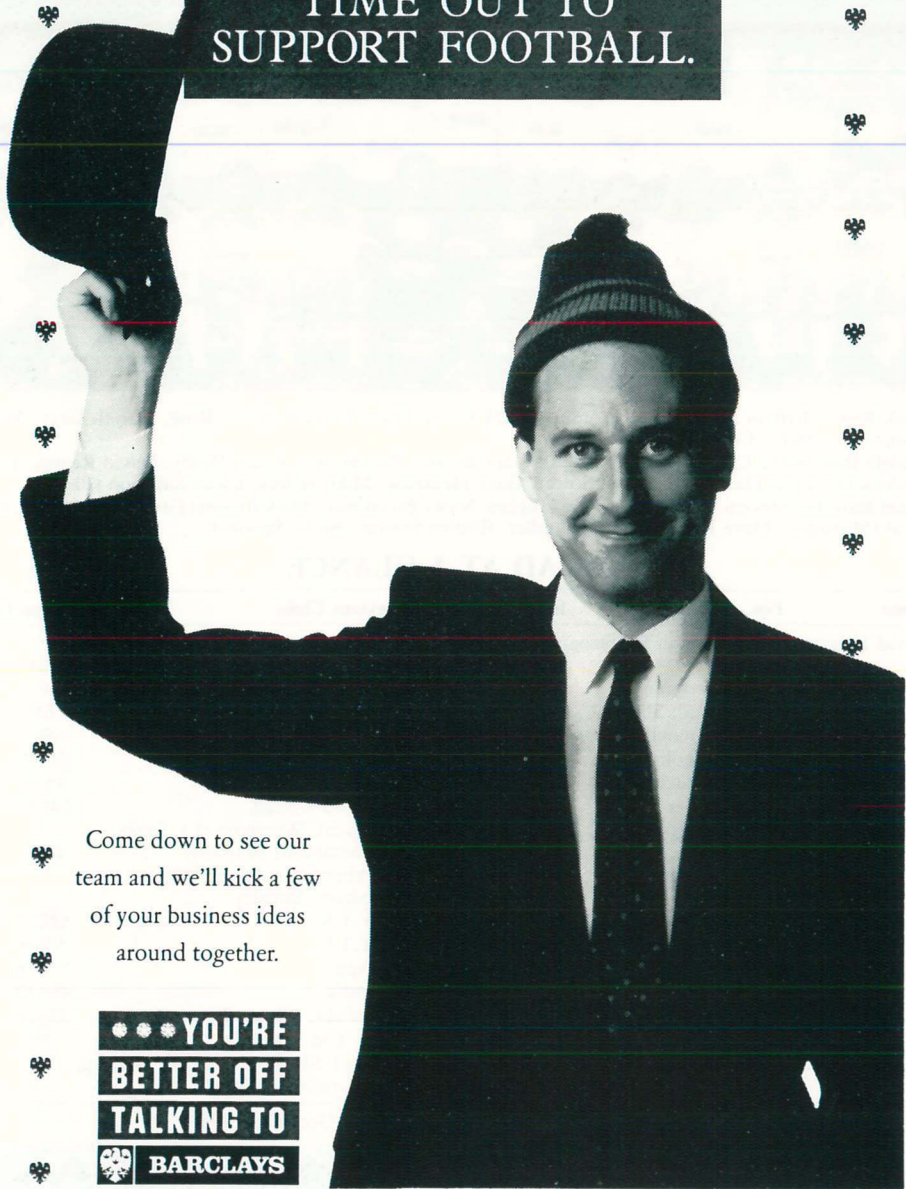
POST WAR MANAGERS: 1945-50 Walter Rowley, 1950-68 Bill Ridding, 1968-70 Nat Lofthouse, 1970-71 Jimmy McIlroy, 1971 Jimmy Meadows, 1971 Nat Lofthouse, 1971-74 Jimmy Armfield, 1974-80 Ian Greaves, 1980-81 Stan Anderson, 1981-82 George Mulhall, 1982-85 John McGovern, 1985 Charlie Wright, 1985- Phil Neal.

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PASSING BACK

Although you can almost count the number of previous League encounters between Rovers and Bolton on one hand, Bolton Wanderers have been visitors, if somewhat infrequently, to Prenton Park for over 100 years.

Our links with them go back to 1889 when they first came to the old ground at the foot of Temple Road for a Good Friday friendly fixture. Though Bolton fielded mostly reserve players, even they were a big attraction with sometimes up to 3,00 turning out to see the annual match.

These games did much to improve the standard of Rovers play and the friendly relationship that existed between the two clubs had much to do with Rovers successful election to the Lancashire Combination in 1892-93, where we met on a more competitive basis.

Though our respective first teams crossed swords at Burnden Park on Christmas Day 1924 (we lost 1-3), it was 1955 before Bolton, complete with Nat Lofthouse, returned to Prenton Park for a benefit match for Harold Bell and Des Harlock. But, in the early 70's, Bolton slipped from grace, finding themselves in Division Three along with us in 1971-72 and 1972-73 seasons.

A crowd of 14,356 witnessed a 1-1 draw in 1972 and that elusive win even evaded us some years later in November, 1983 when we faced Bolton in an F.A. Cup tie. Simon Rudge pulled a fast one to win a controversial penalty in the 89th minute, which Jeff Chandler converted, but Nev Powell equalised a minute into injury time. Warren Joyce had put Bolton ahead only for John Aspinall to level. In the replay we went down 4-1 with Rudge, Valentine and Chandler (2), scoring.

Bolton's last visit to Prenton Park on 15th December, 1987 saw us notch our first-ever victory against the club. Jimmy Harvey thundered in a cracker from 25 yards and Jim Steel cracked in a well-worked second. The match had originally been postponed, due to the infamous Police Costs row.

Played for both sides: Vince Dillon, Johnny Wheeler, Les Jones, Richard Oxtoby, Graham Bell, Frank Worthington, Simon Farnworth, Ray Train.

FOR THE RECORD (League and Cup)

First Meeting:	24.9.1871 (Div. 3), 0-0	Last Home Win:	2-0, 1987-88
Biggest Home Win:	2-0, 1987-88	Last Home Draw:	1-1, 1972-73
Biggest Away Win:	—	Last Home Defeat:	—
Heaviest Home Defeat:	—	Last Hat-trick	—
Heaviest Away Defeat:	1-4, 1983-84 (FAC)	Marksmen:	None.

LEAGUE ANALYSIS

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Home	3	1	2	0	3	1
Away	3	0	0	3	0	5
Total	6	1	2	3	3	6

ON THIS DAY . . .

1937

Before a crowd of 11,500, Rovers gained an early home victory over new neighbours, Chester. After establishing a 3-0 interval lead, Rovers added two further goals to end up 5-0 winners. Scorers were Jones, Dellow, Waring (2) and Eden. The Public Order Act comes into force, which has the effect of banning the neo-Nazi movement of Sir Oswald Moseley.

1949

A crowd of 9,500 saw an exciting game at Prenton Park, where Rovers gained revenge for the heavy defeat suffered at Rotherham earlier in the season, when they beat United 2-1 at Prenton Park. Bill Bainbridge and Harry Eastham scored Rovers goals and Grainger replied for Rotherham.

A ceasefire starts from midnight, in the war between India and Pakistan.

1958

Hat tricks from Jimmy Dodd and Keith Williams gave Rovers a 6-1 victory over York City at Prenton Park. In a great exhibition, in appalling weather, Rovers outplayed York and might well have had more goals. Attendance: 6,479.

Elvis Presley is called up into the US Army, while at home the top film at the cinema is "Bridge over the River Kwai".

1966

A first-minute goal from Crawford sent Rovers on their way to an emphatic 6-1 home victory over Hartlepool United. Further goals from Alan A'Court (2), John Manning (2) and Barry Dyson, gave Rovers a happy start to the New Year before a 5,479 crowd.

There is a Christmas truce in Vietnam, Ferdinand Marcos becomes President of the Philippines.

1972

Ron Yeats made his first appearance at Prenton Park and helped Rovers to a 3-2 victory over Plymouth Argyle. Despite being a goal down at the interval, Rovers fought back with three goals in the first 10 minutes of the second half, from Beamish, Storton and Crossley in front of 6,471.

"Maggie May" by Rod Stewart topped the charts and the Iraq Government expels thousands of Iranians. Britain prepares to join the Common Market.

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RESERVES & YOUTH

"YELLOW'S" 2 v. "WHITES" 2

By GARY DOOLAN

Yellow: Nixon, Higgins, McCarrick, Martindale, Hughes, Vickers, Irons, Harvey, Young, Taylor, Thomas.

White: Collings, Brannon, Garnett, McGreal, Bauress, Bishop, Fairclough, Smith, Malkin, Muir, Mungall.

With both the first team and reserves having no weekend game, this match on 8th December provided an ideal opportunity for some match practice, as well as no doubt settling a few bets!

Ged Brannon's two goals for the Whites lit up the game, any First Division player would be more than happy to have them to his name.

The game was fast and tough, with a lot of pride at stake. Both squads made good scoring chances, worked hard in the middle of the park and were strong in defence. The keepers also produced some marvellous saves.

The Yellows opened the scoring mid-way through the first period, **HARVEY** was quick to take a free-kick and his 25-yard effort caught the defence and Collings off guard.

The Whites had many chances to pull level, but they had to wait until towards the close of the half when **BRANNON**'s long-range shot flew into the top left corner; there was very little Nixon could do to stop it. Level at the break was the fairest reflection of the game, the mixture of first team regulars and reserves being well balanced.

Ged **BRANNON** stole the show again 10 minutes into the second, his superb shot from the right wing found the top left corner again and again there was very little anybody could do.

The rest of the game was much the same as the first half, both teams playing good flowing football with plenty of conviction and again the equaliser came late on. Good running from Thomas beat the substitute Jamie Dunn and his cross found **TAYLOR** who had an open goal from six yards.

It was a very entertaining game and was quite light-hearted. No doubt Ged Brannon will remind everybody of his goals for a few weeks yet!

Warwick Rimmer is able to look back on a highly-successful year in which the Reserve side won the Midlands Senior League Championship and the Youth Side did well in the F.A. Youth Cup. Said Warwick: "The statistics of the past year are impressive by any standard. Certainly, just two defeats during 1989 illustrates the strength in depth we have throughout the squad."

"In addition to that League Championship, our boys also won the Midlands League Cup in a Final which was held over from the end of 1988-89 season to the start of the current campaign."

"It's also been very satisfying from my point of view to see the likes of Tony Thomas, John Smith, Shaun Garnett and Kenny Irons graduate through the ranks to the first team. And we've also got the likes of Gary Bauress and John Norman waiting in the wings."

"Tony Thomas' progress has been remarkable, but then that's the purpose of a good Youth Scheme, to bring lads through."

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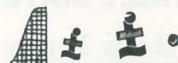
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Personnel File

Up to and including 16th December.

Appearances (+Sub) and goals

PLAYER	Int.Hons. Birthplace/Date	Ht. T.R. Debut	Wt.	Signed from Date/Fee	Other Lge c'r T.R. Lge c'r	Other Cup c'r T.R. Cup c'r	1989-90 Lge	1989-90 Cups
G. BAURESS	Liverpool 19.1.71	6-0	12.0	Apprentice 07.89	—	—	—	—
E. BISHOP	Liverpool 28.11.62	5-11 v. Wrexham	12.0 2.4.88	Runcorn 03.88 Free	— 37+17	3 13 11+6	— 3 9+7	— 4 6+3 2
P. COLLINGS	Liverpool 30.9.68	6-2 v. S'k'port	12.0 25.11.88	Ell. Pt & N'on 05.88 Free	— 1	—	—	—
D. FAIRCLOUGH	E.U21 Liverpool 5.1.57	6-0 v. Preston	11.1 29.8.89	Beveren 06.89 Free	72+50 1+5	35 1 4+	20 — 1+5	— 1 4+ —
S. GARNETT	Wallasey 22.11.69	6-2 v. Newport	13.4 30.4.88	Apprentice 05.88	2+1	— 2	— 2	— 2+1 —
J. HARVEY	N.I.U23 Lurgan 2.5.58	5-9½ v. Rochdale	11.4 9.10.87	Bristol City 10.87 £25,000	286+3 95	38 10 25+1	42+1 — 19	7 3 9 —
D. HIGGINS	Liverpool 19.8.61	6-0 v. M'field	11.0 17.9.83	Caernarvon 06.87 Free	— 120+3	5 3 31	— — 19	— 1 10 —
M. HUGHES	W.U21 Port Talbot 2.2.62	6-0 v. Al'shot	13.0 21.9.85	Bristol City 12.85 £3,000	106+2 143+3	4 4 28+2	16+1 2 19	— 2 10 —
K. IRONS	Liverpool 4.11.70	5-9 v. Bury	11.0 2.12.89	Y.T.S. 11.89	+1	—	+1	— —
M. McCARRICK	Liverpool 4.2.62	5-8 v. S'thorpe	10.8 15.8.87	Runcorn 08.87 Free	64+6 99	— 15+1 10 23+1	— 1 17	— 2 7 1
C. MALKIN	Bebington 4.6.67	6-3 v. Exeter	12.0 31.8.87	Stork (Am.) F.C. 08.88 Free	— 25+18	— 11 9+7	— 4 15+1	— 7 7+3 4
D. MARTINDALE	Liverpool 9.4.64	5-11 v. S'thorpe	11.10 15.8.87	Caernarvon 06.87 £1,500	— 63+13	4 7 19+3	— 1 10+2	— 2 5+3 —
J. MORRISSEY	E.Y. Liverpool 8.3.65	5-8½ v. S'end	11.9 4.10.85	Wolves 10.85 £8,000	6+5 158+11	1 +1 23 34+2	— 2 16	— 3 8 —
I. MUIR	E.Y. Coventry 5.5.63	5-8½ v. Orient	11.0 17.8.85	Brighton 08.85 Free	9+2 183+5	3 2 92 40+1	— 22 19	— 10 10 6
S. MUNGALL	Bellshill 22.5.58	5-8 v. H'field	11.5 17.11.79	Motherwell 07.79 Free	14+6 358+10	6 7 66+2	— 3 3	— 4 —
E. NIXON	Manchester 4.10.62	6-4 v. Carlisle	14.0 25.3.88	Man. City 07.88 £60,000	97 72	— 26 — 23	— — 19	— 10 —
J. NORMAN	Birkenhead 26.6.71	5-8	11.7	Y.T.S. 07.89	—	—	—	—
J. STEEL	Dumfries 4.12.59	6-3 v. Ha'pool	14.0 21.11.87	Wrexham 11.87 £50,000	303+8 78+3	88 15 50+3 17+2	8 4 5+3	— 1 6+2 2
J. SMITH	Liverpool 23.7.70	5-6 v. P'boro	9.7 19.9.88	Local 07.88 Free	— 1+1	—	—	—
T. THOMAS	Liverpool 12.7.71	5-11 v. P'boro	12.5 4.2.89	Y.T.S. 02.89	— 24+1	— 2 5	— — 16	— 6 —
S. VICKERS	B. Auckland 13.10.67	6-3 v. N'mpton	12.0 4.4.86	Spennymoor 08.85 Free	— 147+1	— 7 29+1	— 5 17	— 1 7 1

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1989 — A Year in Focus



Rovers sign up a shirt sponsorship deal with Wirral Council.

4th May: Rovers are awarded a commendation by the Football Trust for their work in the Community. The Reserves also clinch the Midlands Senior League Championship.

6th May: A bumpy pitch and two teams who dared not lose contribute to a dour 0-0 at Doncaster.

9th May: If Burnley can beat Crewe and we defeat Grimsby we're up — at least it sounded simple! Grimsby though, take the lead but Ian Muir and Mark Hughes level before half time.

Three minutes from time, Mark McCarrick, carrying an injured shoulder, pops up to head the winner, but Crewe thrash Burnley so it all rests on Saturday's clash.

13th May: A day of celebration for both ourselves and Crewe and both sets of fans happily mingle on the pitch. Ian Muir scores first for Rovers, Eric Nixon saves a penalty but Crewe finally get the point they need through Paul Clayton. 15,286 fans witness the match and the celebrations go on well into the night.

18th May: Gary Williams and Eddie Murray are given free transfers . . . the rest of the squad jet off to Magaluf for a well-earned break. Mark Hughes is Player of the Year.

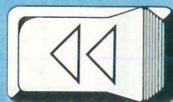
5th June: A new "pop up" watering system is installed around the pitch, part of Prenton Park is returned, and work continues on the new Valley Road training centre.

21st June: Rovers sign ex-Liverpool "supersub" David Fairclough from Belgian club Beveren.

12th July: Ray Mathias returns to the club as Manager of the new Training Centre.

18th July: Rovers sign a shirt sponsorship deal with Wirral Borough Council which will help write off the 1983 loan. The players report for pre-season training.

Rewind



MATCH DETAILS

ROCHDALE 0 v. TRANMERE ROVERS 1

Sherpa Van Trophy, Preliminary Round

12th December, 1989

Rovers: Nixon, Higgins (Garnett 45), McCarrick, Martindale, Hughes, Vickers, Malkin, Harvey, Steel, Muir, Thomas. Sub: Fairclough.

Rochdale: Welsh, Goodison, Burns, Brown, Elliott (Stonehouse 75), Ward, Holmes, Johnson, Dawson, O'Shaughnessy, Graham. Sub: Hill.

Referee: Mr. P. Jones (Loughborough).

Attendance: 1,078.

Scorer: Muir (59), 1-0.

Cautions: Higgins 18, Thomas 61.

Corner Count: Rochdale 5, Tranmere 7.

WHAT THE PRESS SAID:

MUIR ENDS ROVERS HOODOO.

"Ian Muir ended a Tranmere jinx last night . . . the first half was fairly drab, but the tempo increased after the interval. Tranmere had already qualified from the first stage." **Daily Post.**

"After losing their previous match against Bury, this was an important victory to restore confidence."

Radio Merseyside.

TRANMERE ROVERS 0 v. CHESTER 0

Barclays League Division Three

15th December, 1989

Rovers: Nixon, Higgins, McCarrick, Martindale (Fairclough 45), Hughes, Vickers, Malkin, Harvey, Steel, Muir, Thomas. Sub (not used): Garnett.

Chester: Stewart, Parsley, Woodthorpe, Hamilton, Abel, Lane, Butler, Barrow, Newhouse (Croft 59), Painter, Pugh. Sub (not used): Hinnigan.

Referee: Mr. Howard King (Merthyr Tydfil).

Attendance: 5,594.

Cautions: Higgins 57.

Corner Count: Tranmere 1, Chester 4.

WHAT THE PRESS SAID:

"**ROVERS ROBBED** - Tranmere were denied the three points they needed . . . when Ian Muir had a shot cleared off the line 12 minutes from time. Chester earned only their seventh away point, with a brand of football that could only be described as uncompromising. The crowd booed Chester incessantly, interspersed with chants of 'boring Chester'." **Daily Post.**

"Rovers rally comes too late - a grandstand finish by Tranmere just failed to bring victory over Chester City at Prenton Park. Chester frustrated Rovers for long periods . . . in a dreary derby with too many niggling fouls." **Football Echo.**

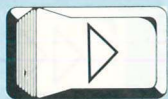


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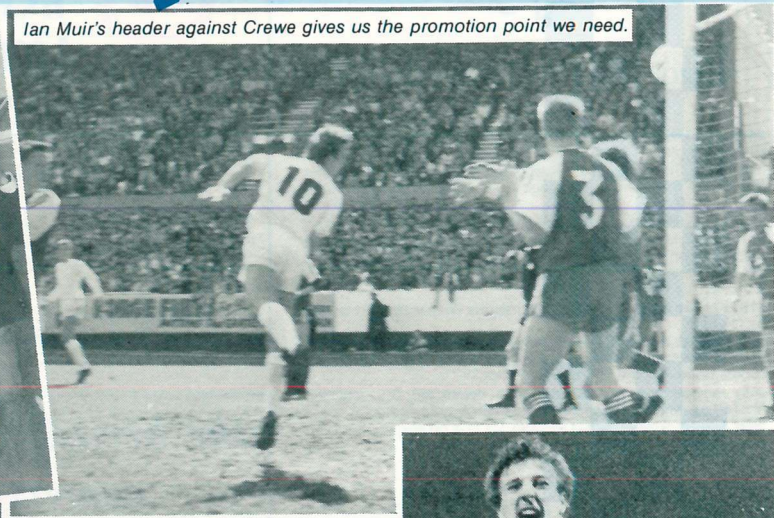
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FRAME

play



Ian Muir's header against Crewe gives us the promotion point we need.

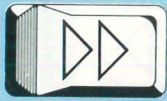


Ian Muir jumps for joy after scoring against Scunthorpe.

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Fast Forward

1989 — A Year in Focus

24th July: The new Training Complex at Valley Road is opened for use by the players in pre-season training.

28th July: Steve Mungall's Testimonial match against Everton attracts an 8,763 crowd who see Colin Harvey's million pound men win 1-0.

1st August: Rovers lose 1-0 to Oxford at Prenton Park.

5th August: Malkin, Vickers, Steel and Bishop net in a 4-0 win at Spennymoor.

8th August: Vickers again, Martindale and Fairclough round off a 3-0 defeat of Wrexham.

11th August: The pre-season programme ends with a 0-1 defeat by Oldham.

19th August: Action starts for real with a 2-1 success at Fulham, and a 4-3 victory at Preston in the Littlewoods Cup. Chris Malkin scores three in the opening two games.

26th August: Dreadful Cardiff are depatched 3-0 (Harvey, McCarrick, Morrissey) in a Saturday lunch hour romp.

29th August: Rovers defeat Preston 3-1 (7-4 on aggregate) to go through to a two-leg tie with Ipswich.



Inside the canteen at the new Bidston Training Centre.

2nd September: First defeat, at Reading 0-1, is followed the next week by another lunchtime treat, a David Fairclough header which wins the match with Rotherham.

16th September: Another away reverse at Birmingham is well and truly vanquished by a 4-0 hammering of Huddersfield Town on **22nd September.** Higgins, Malkin Muir and Morrissey hit the highlights.

19th September: Before that, Rovers score a superb 1-0 victory at Ipswich, thanks to Ian Muir's goal.

26th September: Muir's on target at Wigan as well with two in a 3-1 success at Springfield Park. Mark Hughes heads the other goal.

29th September: Big spenders Bristol City are blown away under a six goal avalanche, though they have a man sent off. Chris Malkin and Eddie Bishop both hit doubles though Eddie's second and Rovers sixth cost one fan £500 winnings. He bet on a 5-0 win!

3rd October: A crowd of 10,050 see Rovers cruise into the Third Round of the Littlewoods Cup after Chris Malkin scores the only goal against Ipswich.

5th October: Rovers sign up Kevin Keegan — a 16 year-old schoolboy with a famous name!

6th October: Leyton Orient are the next victims, Ian Muir (2) and Chris Malkin, applying the finishing touches. Rovers stay top of Division Three, and "scouts" pack the stand!

14th October: Rovers lose 0-1 at Notts County in a bad tempered match, but the following night John King picks up the Echo's *Dixie Dean Award*.

16th October: A late Ian Muir penalty saves the unbeaten home record in a 1-1 draw with Mansfield.

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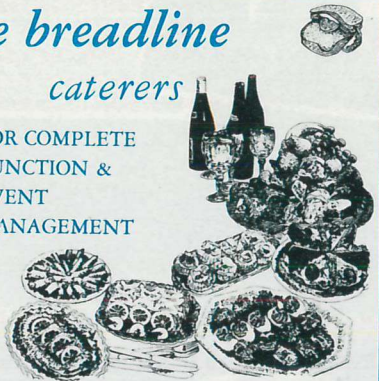
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Fanfile

Name: Christopher Gavriel.

Occupation: Ware-houseman.

Lives: Wallasey.

Length of time supporting Tranmere: Nearly nine years.
First match 1982/83 Stockport (H) 1-1.

Favourite Past Player: John Clayton.

Favourite Current Players: Eric Nixon, Eddie Bishop.

Favourite other side: Middlesbrough — as I was born there.

Best goal by a Rovers' player: Either Jim Steel v. Wrexham 1988/89 or John Morrissey v. Rochdale 1987/88 (H) 6-1.

Best side to visit Prenton Park last season: Scunthorpe United — unlucky to lose 2-1.

Ground you least like visiting: Spotland — Rochdale F.C.

Ambition for the club: For it to be as successful as possible.

Would you like to see the club's name changed: No way.

Best moment watching Tranmere: Wembley 1987/88.

Worst moment watching Tranmere: Every match under Frank Worthington.

Desired improvements at Prenton Park: The Kop could have a roof.

Tips for promotion 1989/90: Notts County, Tranmere, Walsall.

Favourite Away Ground: Molineaux, Wolves F.C. — great atmosphere.

Funniest incident seen at a football match: Preston North End trying to play football on their plastic pitch 1989/90. When we won 4-3.

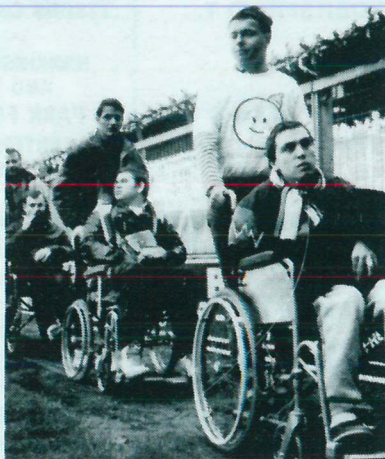
All time best T.R.F.C. eleven: E. Nixon, D. Higgins, D. Burgess, E. Bishop, J. Williams, S. Vickers, M. Ferguson, J. Harvey, C. Clarke, I. Muir, D. Anderson. Subs: J. Clayton, M. McCarrick.

Any additional information about yourself? I am a soccer mastermind.

If Manager, which one player would you bring to Prenton Park, given our limited resources? Steve Bull of Wolves.



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1989 — *A Year in Focus . . .*

20th October: Another single goal defeat — this time at Swansea is followed three days later by one of the great nights in the club's history. McCarrick opens our account but Terry Hurlock scores twice to give Millwall the lead. In the second half goals from Jim Steel and Eddie Bishop give us a tremendous 3-2 success.

27th October: Back to earth again with a 1-1 draw against Crewe watched by 9,020 fans!

31st October: A Halloween shocker at Shrewsbury. But the 3-1 defeat is followed on **4th November** by an impressive 4-2 success at Brentford, the highlight of which were text book goals by Steel, Harvey and Muir. Spurs' scout will have been impressed!

7th November: The lure of vouchers for the Spurs' match attracts a crowd of 10,559 to the Leyland-Daf Cup-tie with Chester, won thanks to Ian Muir's nose for half a chance.

10th November: Heavy rain puts the match with Walsall in doubt and the pitch is only passed fit two hours before kick-off.

Mark McCarrick, under pressure by the signing of Martin Pike that day, on loan from Sheffield United, scores with Eddie Bishop claiming a late winner. Thieves steal Tottenham tickets from the Valley Road offices.

18th November: Out of the F.A. Cup at the first hurdle — a late Preston strike sends Rovers reeling.

22nd November: The long-awaited clash with Spurs arrives. In front of millions of T.V. Viewers and a 13,789 crowd, we are held to a 2-2 draw. Gascoigne nets first for Spurs but Steve Vickers and Jim Steel make it 2-1 only for poor Dave Higgins to put through his own goal.

25th November: A 3-0 success at Blackpool puts the team in good spirits for the replay at Spurs.

29th November: The 4-0 scoreline would suggest a hammering at White Hart Lane. But 2,500 Tranmere fans who travelled know differently. Rovers play some magnificent football but their luck in front of goal is out. A £60,000 pay-off is some consolation.



Despite dropping two points, Rovers go into third place overnight and as the year ends are still very much in contention for a place in Division Two for the first time in 52 years.



Eddie Bishop nets the winner in a 3-2 success over Millwall.

2nd December: The bad luck continues against Bury when the 26 game unbeaten home record finally goes despite taking an early 2-0 lead. Bury hit back to win 4-2. It is Martin Pike's last match, he returns to the Blades.

12th December: Ian Muir nets his 114th League and Cup goal for Rovers in a 1-0 Leyland-Daf Cup victory at Rochdale to ensure we top our group. The previous day the Youth side hold Newcastle to a 1-1 draw in the F.A. Youth Cup.

15th December: Christmas celebrations are cut short as dour Chester get a point from a 0-0 draw. Ian Muir goes closest with a shot which appears to cross the line before David Hamilton kicks clear.

Home or away, Rovers make the
Sports News

EVERY WEEK

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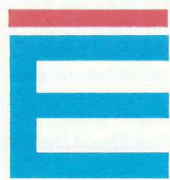
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Question Time

DAVE MARTINDALE

Many people don't realise it Dave, but you started your career at Anfield, didn't you?

I had played for the City schoolboys' side from the ages of 10 to 15 and when I turned 16 I signed on with Liverpool, which was a bit strange because I'm actually an Evertonian. I actually spent three years there and obviously the set-up was fantastic, but I never made the grade. There were a couple of other lads who were with me then who've got fixed up with League clubs — Paul Jewell is at Bradford City now and Tony Kelly's over at Shrewsbury Town.

What happened when you were freed by the Reds?

Well, I drifted into the non-League scene and and spent quite a while on the dole. Eventually I began working with a mate at the fruit and veg market on Edge Lane in Liverpool. I started off at Runcorn and then moved on to Southport but I never really established myself.

I suppose really that your career took a turn upwards when John King took you to Caernarfon?

Well, yes. I had a great spell there and as most people know we reached the Third Round of the F.A. Cup, knocking out York and Stockport before going out after a replay to Barnsley. Of course, Dave Higgins, Kenny Jones and Steve Craven were all there at the time and there was a great feeling about the club at the time. I was also playing for the Eagle in Liverpool on Sundays, in fact I'm their assistant manager now!

Were you surprised when Kingy moved in to sign you from Caernarfon for £1,500?

Actually I was a bit taken aback, but I knew the boss had faith in me and it's been a godsend since I moved here. Everything about Tranmere has taken off and we've had some great times. If I had to put my finger on the best moments they would have to be my goal against Wimbledon at Wembley and the last match of the season against Crewe which was a fantastic feeling.

Finally Dave, there are rumours that you have been urged to take more potshots in a bid to level your goal tally with that of your great friend and rival Steady Eddie. Will will be seeing more of the free-kicks which rapidly became known as "Marty and the Deflections"?

Definitely, although I'm not the first choice when it comes to set pieces anymore, the gaffer has told me to start having more of a crack because we've all been guilty of trying to walk the ball into the net. Me and Eddie are totally different — he's the workhorse and I'm the ballplayer, but because Jim Harvey is so classy it usually boils down to a straight choice between me and Eddie. Maybe one day we'll get the chance to play together!



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QUIZ TIME

GOODBYE TO THE 80's

QUIZ OF THE DECADE

1. Before Bryan Hamilton was appointed Manager in October 1980, who was tipped for the job?
2. Who was Frank Worthington's first signing for Rovers?
3. Where did Eddie Robertson die?
4. Who did Bryan Hamilton sign for nothing from Wigan and sell to Mansfield for £20,000?
5. Which Rovers' player picked up a prestigious Rothmans' Award after he had left the club?
6. Which teams came to Prenton for fund-raising friendlies during 1982?
7. Which non-League sides did we play before meeting Wolves in the F.A. Cup, 3rd Round during 1982-83?
8. Who said of the Manager, "I guess we weren't for him and he wasn't for us"?
9. Who scored on his debut in 1987 within a few minutes of replacing Ronnie Moore in a match with Orient?
10. Which Trophy did Rovers win before the start of 1982-83 season?
11. Who died on Christmas Day 1988?
12. Name the 'keeper signed from Liverpool in 1984, who never played a first team game and was forced to retire?
13. Who wrote to Bryan Hamilton pleading for a trial and was subsequently given a contract?

14. Before last season what was the highest League position attained during the Eighties?

15. Which three players took the train from Rovers to Crewe, but subsequently returned?

SIX TO TACKLE

1. Which club was once known as Singers F.C.?
2. Which Football League club brought top Danish striker Allan Simonsen to England in 1982?
3. West Ham were beaten 4-2 in the 1976 European Cup Winners Cup Final by which Belgian team?
4. In which Mexican city did England play their 1966 World Cup group matches?
5. What was the title of the B.B.C. programme which featured a general knowledge quiz between soccer teams?
6. Which Somerset-based non-league side is leaving its famous sloping pitch?

WHO AM I?



I joined Rovers in 1960 from Blackburn where I played in the F.A. Cup Final nine months earlier. I made 180 appearances in goal, and I now have a stall on Birkenhead Market.

ANSWERS ON FILOFAX, Page 27



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Notice Board

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD FROM THE CHESTER PROGRAMME

ACROSS

1. The Seals.
6. Muir.
7. Eire.
8. Earnshaw.
9. Isaac.
10. Casper.
12. Castle.
13. Aitken.
15. Joseph.
17. Banjo.
20. Noel Luke.
21. Lake.

DOWN

2. Bees.
23. Endersby.
2. Hails.
3. Stewart.
4. Abel.
5. Strachan.
6. Moses.
11. Newhouse.
14. Trailer.
16. Ellis.
18. Jakub.
19. Reid.

COMING NEXT ... SHREWSBURY
The Northampton match is postponed due to their F.A. Cup Tie with Coventry. In its place the match with **Shrewsbury Town** is provisionally brought forward to either:
Friday, 5th January or
Saturday, 6th January 1990
(See local press for kick-off times)

Tuesday, 9th January, 1990.
Kick-off 7.30 p.m.
Leyland-Daf Cup, 1st Round
TRANMERE ROVERS
v.
CARLISLE or SCUNTHORPE

TICKET NEWS CARDIFF CITY

v TRANMERE ROVERS

13th January, 1990 Kick-off 3.00 p.m.
We have received a small allocation of stand tickets (Adults £5.50, Junior/O.A.P. £3.50) for the above match. Cardiff have advised us that entry to the Main Stand (visitors' section) will be by ticket only.

Tickets will be on sale from the Commercial Department.

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Today's Referee is **ALAN BENNETT** from Chesterfield, who is making his first visit to Prenton Park. One of this season's crop of newly promoted League officials, Alan has trodden a long path to the local goal, having taken up the whistle in 1970 with the local Chesterfield League, where he continues to be Secretary of the town's Referees' Association.

His top appointments to date have mainly been as a linesman in the 1986 F.A. Youth Cup semi-final and the 1989 Littlewoods Cup Semi-Final. A Management Services Officer by profession, Alan is interested in all sports and enjoys winemaking in his spare time.
We welcome him to Prenton Park and trust he enjoys tonight's match with Bolton.

1. Mick Docherty.
2. Ian Muir.
3. On the beach at West Kirby during training.
4. Bobby Hutchinson.
5. John Clayton.
6. Manchester United, Wolves and Liverpool (Everton's match was a Liverpool Senior Cup Tie).
7. Telford and Scarborough.
8. Bruce Osterman about Bryan Hamilton.
9. Chris Camden.
10. Cheshire Premier Cup.
11. Record scorer Bunny Bell.
12. Bob Wardle.
13. Kevin Mooney.
14. Sixth in 1984-85 under Ray Mathias.
15. Owen Brown, Mark Palios and Steve Craven.

*League statistics only



Harvey	Steel*	Muir	Thomas	Malkin 1*	Smith	Referee
Harvey	Malkin 2	Muir 1	Thomas	Fairclough	Martindale	M.G. Bailey
Harvey 1	Malkin	Muir	Thomas	Fairclough	Martindale	G. Aplin
Harvey	Malkin 1	Muir 2	Thomas	F'clough*	Mart dale*	T. Simpson
Harvey	Malkin	Muir	Thomas	F'clough*	Martindale	F. Roberts
Harvey	Malkin 1	Muir	Thomas	F'clough 1	Martindale	R. Wiseman
Harvey	Malkin	Muir 1	Thomas	F'clough*	Mart dale*	G. Singh
Harvey	Malkin	Muir 1	Thomas	Steel*	Bishop*	A. Buksh
Harvey	Malkin 1	Muir 1	Thomas	Steel*	Bishop*	I. Hemley
Harvey	Malkin	Muir 2	Thomas	Steel*	Bishop*	A. Smith
Harvey	Malkin 1	Muir 1	Thomas	Steel*	Bishop*	S. Lodge
Harvey	Malkin 2	Muir 1	Thomas	Bishop 2*	Steel	P. Danson
Harvey	Malkin 1	Muir 2	Thomas	Bishop*	Steel*	J. A. Kirkby
Harvey	Malkin	Muir	Thomas	Bishop*	Steel	T. Fitzharris
Harvey	Malkin	Muir 1	Thomas	Bishop*	Steel	A. Dawson
Harvey	Malkin	Muir 1	Thomas	Bishop*	Steel*	T. West
Harvey	Malkin*	Muir	Thomas	Bishop*	Steel*	R. Gifford
Harvey	Malkin	Muir	Thomas	F'clough*	Mart dale*	D. Allison
Harvey	Malkin	Muir 1	Thomas	Martindale	Steel*	I. Hendrick
Harvey	Malkin	Muir	Thomas	Martindale	Steel*	W. Burge
Harvey 2	Steel 1	Muir 1	Mungall	Martindale	Malkin	J. Deakin
Martindale	Steel	Muir 1	Mungall	Malkin*	F'clough*	R. Dikes
Harvey*	Steel	Muir	Mungall	Mart dale*	Malkin	K. Lupton
Harvey	Steel	Muir	Mungall	Martindale	Malkin*	G. Courtney
Harvey	Steel 1	Muir	Mungall	Mart dale*	Malkin*	L. Shapter
Harvey	Steel	Muir	Thomas	Mungall*	F'clough*	J. Rushton
Harvey	Steel	Muir	Mungall	Bishop*	F'clough*	R. Millford
Harvey	Malkin 1	Muir	Mungall	Bishop*	Irons*	S. Bell
Harvey	Steel	Muir 1	Thomas	F'clough	Garnett*	P. Jones
Harvey	Steel	Muir	Thomas	F'clough	Garnett	H. King

MIDLAND SENIOR LEAGUE				Result
22	Aug	89	Halifax	1-0
30	Aug	89	Bury	2-0
4	Sept	89	Peterborough	pp
6	Sept	89	Hartlepool (Mid. Lge. Cup Final)	7-0
12	Sept	89	Northampton	3-0
20	Sept	89	Stockport C.	0-1
27	Sept	89	Hartlepool	2-0
10	Oct	89	Scarborough	3-2
18	Oct	89	Shrewsbury	3-1
25	Oct	89	Birmingham C.	1-1
31	Oct	89	Hartlepool	4-2
15	Nov	89	Bury	6-3
27	Nov	89	Chesterfield	1-1
5	Dec	89	Hartlepool Lge Cup R.1.	3-2
18	Dec	89	Wrexham	3-0
2	Jan	90	Walsall	
9	Jan	90	Peterborough	
15	Jan	90	Halifax	
22	Jan	90	Lge. Cup semi-finals	
7	Feb	90	Chester City	
19	Feb	90	Northampton	
27	Feb	90	Stockport C.	
6	Mar	90	Lincoln City	
13	Mar	90	Chester City	
19	Mar	90	Lincoln C.	
27	Mar	90	Scarborough U.	
3	Apr	90	Shrewsbury T.	
24	Apr	90	Birmingham C.	
1	May	90	Walsall	
12	May	90	Chesterfield	
T.B.A.			Notts F.	
T.B.A.			Hartlepool	
T.B.A.			Wrexham	
T.B.A.			Notts F.	
Home Games in Bold. Kick-off 2.30 p.m.				

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO				Result
19	Aug	89	Carlisle Utd.	6-1
26	Aug	89	Manchester Utd	0-1
2	Sept	89	Everton	2-1
9	Sept	89	Preston	3-2
16	Sept	89	Blackburn R.	11-1
23	Sept	89	Crewe	0-1
30	Sept	89	Marine Youth	7-0
7	Oct	89	Oldham "B"	5-1
14	Oct	89	Wigan Ath.	4-1
21	Oct	89	Blackpool	0-2
1	Nov	89	Halifax FAYC	1-0
4	Nov	89	Stockport	0-0
11	Nov	89	Chester City	2-1
18	Nov	89	Stockport	6-1
25	Nov	89	Liverpool	1-2
2	Dec	89	Liverpool	3-0
9	Dec	89	Carlisle U.	pp
11	Dec	89	Newcastle FAYC	1-1
21	Dec	89	Newcastle FAYC	
30	Dec	89	Everton	
6	Jan	90	Preston N.E.	
13	Jan	90	Blackburn R.	
20	Jan	90	Crewe Alex.	
3	Feb	90	Oldham Ath.	
10	Feb	90	Marine Youth	
17	Feb	90	Blackpool	
24	Feb	90	Chester City	
3	Mar	90	Bury	
10	Mar	90	Bury	
17	Mar	90	Wigan Ath.	
24	Mar	90	Manchester United	
Home Games in Bold. K.O. 11.00 a.m. at Shaftesbury				

MIDLAND SENIOR LEAGUE - STATISTICS

	Cup App.	Goals	Lge App.	Goals
Bauress	2	—	12	—
Bishop	1	1	4	—
Brannon	2	1	11	—
Collings	2	—	12	—
Fairclough	1	1	12	8
Garnett	2	—	11	—
Irons	2	2	10	6
Litherland	—	—	2	—
McCarrick	—	—	1	—
McGreal	2	—	11	—
Malkin	1	2	1	5
Martindale	1	—	5	2
Moore	—	—	1	—
Morrissey	—	—	2	1
Muir	1	1	1	1
Mungall	—	—	4	1
Norman	2	1	7+1	—
Pike	—	—	1	—
Smith	1	—	10	—
Steel	—	—	5	3
Taylor	1	1	3+1	—
Thomas	1	—	2	—
Young	—	—	1+4	—

KEY TO STATISTICS

* First Sub. ° Second Sub. + Own Goal. S.O. Sent Off. Goalscorers in Bold Type. Saturday Home Games 3pm K.O. Evening Kick-off 7.30pm. Home Games in Bold Type † Littlewoods Cup ‡ F.A. Cup L.D. Leyland Daf Cup

Rovers' Matchday Programme is compiled and edited by Peter Bishop with contributions from John Troup, Tony Evans, Colin Dyson of Eavesway, Alan Nixon, Gary Doonan, Ian Rogers, Andy Quayle, Gil Upton, Bernard Jones and Nigel Coates

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Distribution: Mark Adams

Views expressed in contributors' articles may not reflect those of the Directors of Tranmere Rovers Football Club. © T.R.F.C. 1989-90

Commercial Call

by NIGEL COATES



Firstly, let me take the opportunity to wish all of our Sponsors, Cashline and Lottery Agents a Happy and Prosperous 1990.

During the next few weeks we will be increasing our efforts to promote both our Rovers Return Cashline and Lottery ticket fund-raising schemes throughout the Wirral.

The importance of our fund-raising schemes cannot be overstated, with the funds raised assisting in the Board's ambitious plans for the Club. If you know of any shop, public house or, perhaps, one of your friends who may be interested in supporting either our Lottery or Cashline Schemes, then please phone the Commercial Office on 051-608 0371.

Congratulations to Bill Smith of Birkenhead, who is selling over 500 Lottery tickets a week via some of the local amateur football clubs in the area. Bill is, therefore, the "Agent of the Month" for December and receives two VIP tickets for a future home match.

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DAVE HIGGINS	Les Sands				
MARK HUGHES	A. McGowan	(Greetings)			
CHRIS MALKIN	Eric Smith	Imperial Tavern			Eric Smith
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TODAY'S

Match Mascot

MICHAEL CROCKFORD



Michael, aged 9, lives in Pensby Road, Heswall and attends Whitfield Junior School.

He plays football for the school, cubs and in the Sunday League for Wallasey Albion U10's.

When he grows up Michael's ambition is to become a professional footballer.

Matchday Music courtesy of "Beat Box", Birkenhead Open Market. First Aid Facilities by British Red Cross.

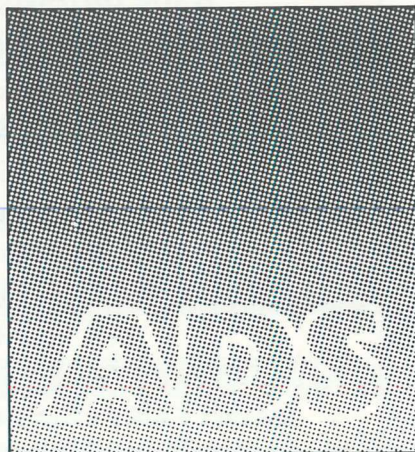
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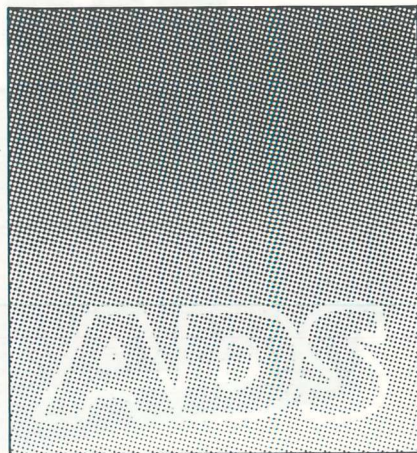
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DAVE HIGGINS		2	PHIL BROWN
MARK McCARRICK		3	MARTIN PIKE
DAVE MARTINDALE		4	GARY HENSHAW
MARK HUGHES		5	DEAN CROMBIE
STEVE VICKERS		6	MARK WINSTANLEY
CHRIS MALKIN		7	STUART STORER
JIMMY HARVEY		8	STEVE THOMPSON
JIM STEEL		9	DAVID REEVES
IAN MUIR		10	TONY PHILLISKIRK
TONY THOMAS		11	JULIAN DARBY
DAVID FAIRCLOUGH		12	PAUL COMSTIVE
EDDIE BISHOP		14	MARK CAME



ALAN BENNETT
(Chesterfield)



P. CULLEN
(Yellow)



M. HURST
(Yellow/Red)

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